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| EXAMINER WILLIAMS, CLAYTON R | | | | |
| ART UNIT 2457 | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/567,256

Applicant(s)

KRUSE ET AL.

Examiner

Clayton R. Williams

Art Unit

2457

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2009.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,10-12,14-17 and 20-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,10-12,14-17 and 20-24 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/888)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-17 and 20-24 are pending in this application per amendment.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-17 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crater et al. (US 6,201,996: hereinafter Crater), in view of Fleischman (US 6,507,847: hereinafter Fleischman).

For claims 1, 11, 23 and 24, Crater discloses a system for web-based monitoring (col. 9, lines 16-19, disclosure of web pages 165 of system 100 serving collected monitoring information to client computers) and control, comprising:

distributed installations (col. 10, lines 40-44, disclosure that system allows web-browser based clients to issue commands to remote systems) with at least one superordinate installation configured as a web client (col. 9, lines 60-66, disclosure of browser 220) which can interchange data/information with web servers of respective distributed installations via communication links, wherein the at least one web client includes applications;

an integration layer which executes, shows and/or displays the data/information interchange with the distributed installations (col. 9, lines 60-66, ability of browser 220 to execute applets);

a proxy component which, upon execution, provides for communication by the web servers in the distributed installations, said proxy component communicating with the integration layer and the web servers in the distributed installations (col. 10, lines 8-22; col. 6, lines 50-65) wherein the distributed installations store data structures with references, where the references contain pointers to data, structures and/or substructures in further distributed installations (col. 21, lines 35-38, disclosure of controllers having pointers that point to data structures in other controllers on the network) and wherein the integration layer executes the evaluation of the pointers with further distributed installations recursively or cyclically (col. 21, lines 35-40, disclosure of

client system processing the pointers delivered to it by the multiplicity of controller devices and individually contacting each of these controllers to resolve pointer dependencies which point to further controllers)

Crater fails to explicitly disclose:

“wherein abortion criteria are provided for the purpose of avoiding continuous loops in the case of cyclic execution of the pointers”

However, Fleischman discloses a method for terminating a query before a pointer “loopback” condition ensues (col. 9, lines 42-49). Crater and Fleischman are analogous art because both are from the field of database querying.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Crater with Fleischman, because this modification would allow a database query to terminate before an infinite loopback condition impacts system performance by needlessly consuming system resources.

For claims 2 and 12, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the integration layer is formed by a piece of integral software for data interchange and/or for data evaluation with the distributed installations (Crater, col. 9, lines 61-66 and col. 10, lines 14-22).

For claim 4 the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the applications stored in the web client are applications or

application programs which show and/or display data/information interchanged with web servers which have been combined into a uniform structure using the integration layer (Crater, col. 9, lines 34-39, disclosure of web browser receiving content from multiple system 100s and combining this data for presentation).

For claim 5, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the integration layer preprocesses data requests from the applications (Crater, col. 21, lines 18-22, applets serve as intermediaries between web browser and controllers, whereby the applets accept input from browser, display results through browser and process information received from network systems).

For claim 6, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the applications, the integration layer and proxy component which, upon execution, provides for communication by the web servers in the respective distributed installations are in the form of software components and can be installed and executed automatically using standard web mechanisms (Crater, col. 9, lines 60-66, disclosure of web browser and associated applets).

For claim 10, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data interchange between the applications, the integration layer and proxy component which, upon execution, provides for communication by the web servers in the respective distributed installations are in the

form of software components and can be executed using local function calls (Crater, col. 9, lines 60-66, disclosure of browser 220 utilizing applets, applets which interact with browser using local service calls), and the data interchange between the proxy component which, upon execution, provides for communication by the web servers in the distributed installations and the web servers in the distributed installations can be executed using web service calls (Crater, col. 9, lines 16-20, disclosure that interaction between controller and querying computer by way of web services functionality).

For claim 13, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the purpose of data interchange between the web client and the distributed installations is served by virtue of the web client storing representative services which communicate with the integration layer and with the web servers in the respective distributed installations (Crater, col. 21, lines 37-39, disclosure of multitude of system 100s communicating with requesting client).

For claim 14, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the data/information interchanged with web servers which have been combined into a uniform structure using the integration layer are shown and/or displayed using the applications stored in the web client (Crater, col. 9, lines 34-39, disclosure of web browser receiving content from multiple system 100s and combining this data for presentation).

For claim 15, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the purpose of requesting data from the web servers in the distributed installations is served by virtue of the applications being used to preprocess requests from the integration layer (Crater, col. 21, lines 18-22, applets serve as intermediaries between web browser and controllers, whereby the applets accept input from browser, display results through browser and process information received from network systems).

For claim 16, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the application, the integration layer and proxy component which, upon execution, provides for communication by the web servers in the distributed installations that communicate with the integration layer and with the web servers in the respective distributed installations are in the form of software components and are installed and executed automatically using standard web mechanisms (Crater, col. 9, lines 60-66, disclosure of web browser and associated applets).

For claim 17, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the distributed installations store data structures with references, the references containing pointers to data, structures and/or substructures in further distributed installations (Crater, col. 21, lines 35-38, disclosure of controllers having pointers that point to data structures in other controllers on the network).

For claim 20, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the references between the distributed installations are resolved only following a request by the web client (Crater, col. 21, lines 34-40, disclosure that references between controllers resolved in response to request by client).

For claim 21, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the data/information in a first distributed installation are first loaded in the integration layer and evaluated in relation to pointers with further distributed installations (Crater, col. 21, lines 39-40, disclosure of client, rather than controllers, making connections to individual controllers and resolving pointers in order to reach referenced additional controllers).

For claim 22, the combination of Crater and Fleischman discloses the method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the data interchange between the applications, the integration layer and proxy component which, upon execution, provides for communication by the web servers in the distributed installations that communicate with the integration layer and with the web servers in the respective distributed installations in the distributed installations is executed using local function calls (Crater, col. 9, lines 60-66, disclosure of browser 220 utilizing applets, applets which interact with browser using local service calls), and the data interchange between the representative services and the web servers in the distributed installations is executed using web service calls

(Crater, col. 9, lines 16-20, disclosure that interaction between controller and querying computer by way of web services functionality).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues prior art of record does not teach a proxy component. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Crater (col. 10, lines 8-22; col. 6, lines 50-65) clearly and unambiguously discloses proxy components utilizing both java and ActiveX executables. These proxy components facilitate communication between web servers and client browsers, as per the claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clayton R. Williams whose telephone number is 571-270-3801. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Apr. 6, 2009
CRW

Clayton R. Williams
Patent Examiner
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/ARIO ETIENNE/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2457